

# Phil Brooke

Kerry Graber, Site Manager  
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Re: Public Comments on Feasibility Study, Occidental Chemical Corp. Superfund Cleanup

I live in the Summit-Waller area of Pierce County, and am a lifelong resident of Washington State. After reviewing available documents on this topic, speaking as a Risk and Safety Management Professional, I am deeply deeply concerned about toxic contamination from the Occidental Chemical Corporation, and the existential threat this toxic pollution created entirely by the Occidental Chemical Corporation, poses to the future health of Commencement Bay and the entire Puget Sound.

The contamination from Occidental is staggering. Hundreds of thousands of pounds of toxic, cancer-causing chemicals are spread under the site, the Hylebos Waterway, and potentially Commencement Bay. The pollution is so bad, it actually dissolves rock into jelly. In order to cut costs, Occidental Chemical Corporation is setting the stage to be able to walk away from this mess without a comprehensive cleanup. Occidental is proposing a cleanup plan that would leave nearly two thirds of their pollution in the ground – highly toxic pollution right underneath a vulnerable aquatic ecosystem. It's a slow-moving criminal act against the taxpayers and residents of Pierce County and the Puget Sound.

Ecology allowing Occidental Chemical Corporation to walk away from their liability is absolutely not acceptable - this is not acceptable for me, for my family, for my community, or for my environment. Puget Sound deserves a meaningful cleanup, which doesn't leave the Puget Sound at risk.

We cannot afford to let Occidental walk away from their mess – they must be held accountable for the strongest and quickest cleanup possible. I urge Ecology to choose a cleanup plan that removes as much toxic pollution as possible, as soon as possible. Further, Occidental must create a performance bond, reserve account or an equivalent fund to ensure that cleanup costs will be covered regardless of the company's future financial status. Ecology has the authority to order this via a unilateral order.

Occidental should not be able to argue that it's too big of a mess – they created it and they should clean it up. For the safety of our environment, Ecology needs to hold them fully accountable for a real cleanup to the "maximum extent practicable" as required by the Model Toxics Control Act. What Occidental is proposing is unacceptable. We cannot allow the profits of polluters to outweigh the importance of environmental protection.

Further, I would formally ask that Ecology extend this public comment period, and allow for another local opportunity in Tacoma for public comment. The consensus of those in attendance was the format of the prior meeting did not foster participation of the public in their own public comment opportunity. Remember, we are the folks who will be most negatively impacted by the

sub-standard clean-up plan Ecology is favoring on behalf of the Occidental Chemical Corporation.

Sincerely,

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